

over the last 7 years in reducing violent crime by funding 50,000 new police officers. We are committed to safeguarding the environment.

Another year, another Republican Congress that ignores the needs of middle class families; more interest in providing a trillion dollar tax cut for corporate and special interests, but they do not care about finding a dime for Medicare prescription drugs for seniors and now they are at the beck and call of the HMO lobbyists but they have failed to send a bipartisan Patients' Bill of Rights to Congress. It is time for all of these programs to get in place now more than ever.

THE MONEY BELONGS TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, NOT THE GOVERNMENT

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, in Washington there are a couple of things that are misunderstood, mostly by the liberals, that the government does not have money. Big shock, the government does not have money. It is the American people's money. It is hard-working America whose money is talked about as if it is theirs.

The money goes into two pots. One is for general spending and another pot, there are a lot of trust funds but the major two, the other pot is for Social Security. In the general fund pot, we are out. Yet we have heard today speaker after speaker say we need more spending for this, we need more spending for that.

Indeed, most of the liberals voted against the appropriations bills because they did not spend enough money. Well, my question is, if we are out of money in this pot and we have a lot of money in this pot, is that where we are going to get it? Because that is Social Security. If we are not going to take it from this trust fund, then we must want to increase taxes.

Wait a minute. Two weeks ago the other side joined Republicans and voted 419-to-0 against the Clinton tax proposals. The only way to do this, to make our budget, is to cut one cent out of the dollar. I hope the Democrats will join us on that.

THE FINAL YEAR OF THE 20TH CENTURY, A DISAPPOINTMENT FOR AMERICAN FAMILIES

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, to my prior colleague, I would just say there is no money to deal with his budget and it is because they had an \$892 billion tax cut for the wealthiest people in this country. Had they not tried this trick, we would be in a different position here today.

This year, the final year, of the 20th century, has been a disappointing one for the American families. Every time Congress has had the opportunity to help families in a meaningful way, the Republican leadership has sided with the special interests over the public interests.

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The list of casualties is long: A patients' bill of rights, campaign finance reform, Medicare prescription drug benefits, smaller class sizes, and sensible gun safety reform is also being killed.

Since the Columbine tragedy occurred more than 6 months ago, the Republican leadership has consistently stifled every attempt to pass common sense gun safety measures, and yet 13 children every day are killed by guns, with 100,000 kids bringing guns to school every year. They should be ashamed of themselves, the Republican leadership, for letting the NRA write our gun laws and obstructing our attempts to close the loopholes that give criminals and children easy access to guns.

REPUBLICANS WANT TO GIVE BACK TO HARD-WORKING AMERICANS

(Mr. FOSSELLA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, at the outset let me commend my friend from New York (Mr. McNULTY) and his dad for 50 years of wonderful service to our country.

Mr. Speaker, I think this is healthy, and for those who feel clouded by the debate here, I would just like to put it in very simple terms: The core difference between the parties here, as I see it, is the notion of who wants to strengthen personal freedom; who wants to give back to the hard-working Americans who go work at sometimes two and three jobs to support their families, to put food on the table, to buy clothes for their kids for school, to buy that new microwave oven; who wants to be on their side and give them more of their hard-earned money back, and who feels it is appropriate for Washington to keep as much money as possible?

We had the debate about the appropriations bills. Well, the ordinary American is telling us to do our business and come back home. But what we have heard is that Congress passes the bills within certain caps, the White House vetoes it, yet never says where they want to get the additional money from to spend on their additional programs. I think it is legitimate for the American people to ask where is that money coming from.

AMERICANS WANT A CONGRESS THAT WORKS FOR THEM

(Mr. STUPAK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, here we are in November, and, quite frankly, this Republican Congress has done very little. The appropriations bills languish and the needs of the American people are not being met.

The GOP has spent the year trying to convince the American people that they need a \$792 billion tax cut for the wealthiest Americans, but America saw through this tax giveaway which raided the Social Security Trust Fund and rejected it.

Instead, the American people asked for things that cost very little and would improve their lives, like a patients' bill of rights so Americans and doctors can make their medical decisions and not the HMOs; like the increase in the minimum wage so all Americans can enjoy this strong economy; like 100,000 more teachers so we can reduce the class sizes; and why, Mr. Speaker, can we not enforce all the gun laws on the books and do background checks on every commercial sale of a gun, even those at gun shows?

No more excuses, no more exceptions. Mr. Speaker, let us work for the American people. Unfortunately, under the Republican-led Congress, it is always the same old song: More tax breaks for the rich and more tax on government. America wants a Congress that works for them, like Democrats are fighting for.

SOCIAL SECURITY WILL BE SAVED

(Mr. HAYES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, in 1997, I began traveling the 8th district of North Carolina, and I made two particular pledges; one was to save Social Security and the other was to do everything I could to balance the budget.

Well, here we are with the appropriations bills passed, we have stopped the raid on Social Security, and we have balanced the budget. It is that simple. Our spending appetite has been decreased, our priorities have been very clearly outlined.

Social Security will be saved because we have stopped the raid, and I applaud those for making the tough choices and making that possible.

JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the pending business is the question of the Speaker's approval of the Journal of the last day's proceeding.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a